

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Candles and Lead Wicks—National Candle Association (NCA) 1999 DEC 22 P 4:45

DATE OF MEETING: December 15, 1999

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: December 16, 1999

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME
Kristina Hatlelid, HS

LOCATION: CPSC headquarters, Room 410A

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached attendance list.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached attendance list.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The purpose of this meeting was to share information about the candle industry, especially the use of lead core wicks.

Primer on the candle industry and the role of NCA

NCA members include US candle manufacturers and international suppliers. Retailers are now becoming involved. NCA members produce about 80% of domestically produced candles. They do not know the size of the import market. NCA has two meetings annually that serve to disseminate technical data and other information useful to the members.

The International Guild of Candle Artisans may serve some companies that are not NCA members.

There is one major US wick manufacturer. Since many candle and wick companies are privately-owned, statistics are not readily available.

CPSC Activities related to Lead in Candles

CPSC staff is evaluating the potential hazard associated with the lead emissions when a candle is burned under reasonable use conditions.

CPSC 6(b)(1) Cleared
No Mfrs/Private Labels
Products Identified
Excepted by
Firms Notified,
Comments Processed.

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Candles/wicks

NCA provided basic information concerning the products. Candles consist of wax, a wick, and sometimes additives such as color, fragrance and other ingredients to provide the desired product. The different wick types have different uses. The cored wicks are used mainly in tealights, votives, and jar candles.

About half the wick production volume is the all-cotton flat-plaited wick; 10% are square wicks; and the remainder are cored wicks: cotton core, paper core, zinc, tin, synthetic monofilament, and lead. The US market is about 15-20% zinc core.

The major US wick manufacturer phased out the use of lead-core wicks in the 1990s. They believe the three major European wick makers have also phased out the use of lead cores. Although the Asian market continues to use lead cores, no specific manufacturers are known.

Voluntary agreements and standards

Adding a provision to eliminate the use of lead-cored wicks to the ASTM F15.45 Candle and Candle Products standard, which is under development, was discussed.

ATTENDEES VIA TELEPHONE

Jim Becker, American Greetings

Jeb Head, Atkins and Pearce

John Root, A.I. Root Company

ATTENDANCE

Lead in Candles/ National Candle Association

December 15, 1999

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